

HOUSE BILL 924

R7

2lr1736

By: **Delegate Beitzel**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2012

Assigned to: Environmental Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Vehicle Laws – Local Authority – Use of Highways by Snowmobiles**

3 FOR the purpose of altering the authority of local jurisdictions to designate a portion
4 of a highway for snowmobile use to facilitate access between trails by repealing
5 the requirement that the snowmobile trails accessed be designated by the
6 Department of Natural Resources; making certain technical corrections; and
7 generally relating to the authority of local jurisdictions over the use of highways
8 by snowmobiles.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
10 Article – Transportation
11 Section 25–102(a)
12 Annotated Code of Maryland
13 (2009 Replacement Volume and 2011 Supplement)

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

16 **Article – Transportation**

17 25–102.

18 (a) The provisions of the Maryland Vehicle Law do not prevent a local
19 authority, in the reasonable exercise of its police power, from exercising the following
20 powers as to highways under its jurisdiction:

21 (1) Subject to the provisions of § 21–1003.1 of this article, regulating
22 or prohibiting the stopping, standing, or parking of vehicles;

23 (2) Regulating traffic by means of police officers or traffic control
24 devices;

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



- 1 (3) Regulating or prohibiting processions or assemblies on highways;
- 2 (4) Designating particular highways or separate roadways as one-way
3 highways and requiring that all vehicles on them move in one specified direction;
- 4 (5) Regulating the speed and weight of vehicles in public parks;
- 5 (6) Designating any highway as a through highway or designating any
6 intersection as a stop intersection or a yield intersection;
- 7 (7) Restricting the use of highways as provided in Title 24 of this
8 article;
- 9 (8) Regulating the operation of bicycles, requiring them to be
10 registered, and imposing a registration fee;
- 11 (9) Regulating or prohibiting the turning of vehicles or specified types
12 of vehicles at intersections;
- 13 (10) Altering speed limits as provided in Title 21, Subtitle 8 of this
14 article;
- 15 (11) Regulating through truck traffic and prohibiting trucks from using
16 any highway or alley that is not designated or maintained as a part or extension of the
17 State or federal highway system, provided the local authority has designated an
18 adequate alternate route for diverted truck traffic;
- 19 (12) Adopting any other traffic regulations as specifically authorized in
20 the Maryland Vehicle Law;
- 21 (13) Regulating taxi stands, including taxi stands in the middle of a
22 block;
- 23 (14) (i) Except in Garrett County, designating a certain portion of
24 highways [or roadways] upon which snowmobiles may travel for the sole purpose of
25 gaining access to snowmobile trails [which have been designated by the Department of
26 Natural Resources]. However, only those highways [and roadways] which divide
27 snowmobile trails and which would otherwise obstruct direct access between
28 snowmobile trails may be so designated **BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY**; and
- 29 (ii) In Garrett County, permitting a person to cross a highway
30 [or roadway] on a snowmobile at a right angle, and designating a certain portion of
31 highways [or roadways] upon which snowmobiles may travel for the sole purpose of
32 gaining access to snowmobile trails [which have been designated by the Department of
33 Natural Resources];

1 (15) Requiring a motorized minibike to be permitted by the local
2 authority, and imposing a permit fee;

3 (16) In Allegany County, designating crossings on county highways
4 where a person operating a golf cart may cross the highway for continued access to any
5 portion of a golf course; and

6 (17) Restricting use of a low speed vehicle on a highway.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
8 October 1, 2012.